

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 were cancelled in the previous amendment and claims 9-23 were added.

In the pending Office Action, claims 9-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for a lack of antecedent basis. Claims 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over by U.S. Patent No. 1,547,243 to Wadsowrth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,988,718 to Eulenbach et al. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowability of claims 13-23, if these claims are rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and with respect to claims 13-14 to further include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-12 are deleted. Hence, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is obviated.

Allowable claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of canceled claims 9 and 11, and allowable claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of canceled claim 9. The term “the distal end” from canceled claim 9, line 7 was amended to “a distal end” when incorporated into claims 13 and 14. Hence, the rejection of claims 13 and 14 based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been addressed.

Independent claims 15 and 19 are amended from “the distal end” to --a distal--. Hence, the rejection of claims 15-18 and 19-23 based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been addressed.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. No new matter has been added. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant requests that an early Notice of Allowance be issued.

Fees for one additional independent claim and a petition for one-month extensions of time are due in connection with the submission of this Response. If any other required fees, including extension of time are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge appropriate fees to H.T. Than Law Group, Deposit Account No. 50-1980.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 10, 2007

/H.T. Than/  
H.T. Than, Registration No. 38,632  
Attorney for Applicant  
The H.T. Than Law Group

Waterfront Center  
1010 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 560  
Washington, D.C. 20007

(202) 363-2620